

Claims

The following is a copy of Applicant's claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("____") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently amended) A method for transferring data between first and second data processing applications, both of which operate on said data, said method ~~comprised of the steps of~~ comprising:

measuring a first data transfer metric for a first data transfer pathway between said first process and said second process;

measuring said first data transfer metric for a second data transfer pathway between said first process and said second process;

comparing the first data transfer metric for the first pathway to the first data transfer metric for the second pathway; and

selecting one of said first and second data transfer pathways for subsequent data transfers based upon the result of said ~~step of~~ comparing, and upon at least one user-specified data transfer rule.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised of at least one computer program.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways is a physical transmission media.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one user specified data transfer rule includes at least one of: a data transmission pathway data transfer rate; a data transmission pathway cost; a data transmission pathway processing overhead.

5. (Currently amended) A method for transferring data between first and second data processors which operate on said data, said method ~~comprised of the steps~~ of comprising:

measuring a first data transfer metric for a first data transfer pathway between said first processor and said second processor;

measuring said first data transfer metric for a second data transfer pathway between said first processor and said second processor;

comparing the first data transfer metric for the first pathway to the first data transfer metric for the second pathway; and

selecting one of said first and second data transfer pathways for subsequent data transfers between said first and second processors based upon the result of said ~~step of~~ comparing, and upon at least one user-specified data transfer rule.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised of at least one computer program.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second data transfer pathways is a physical transmission media.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one user specified data transfer rule includes at least one of: a data transmission pathway data transfer rate; a data transmission pathway cost; a data transmission pathway processing overhead.

9-12. Canceled.

13. (Currently amended) A computer system that minimizes data transfer operations, comprising:

a data network having a plurality of data transfer pathways through which data is transferred;

at least first and second processors coupled to said network;

a data transfer manager coupled to the first and second processors and coupled to the data network, said data transfer manager ~~determining~~ being configured to determine data transfer metrics of a plurality of data transfer pathways ~~through said network, said data transfer manager determining the~~ and select a data transfer pathways pathway through ~~said network through~~ which subsequent data transfers will occur based upon at least one user-selected transfer attribute.

14. Canceled.

15. (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein said data transfer manager is a computer.

16. (Original) The computer system of claim 13 wherein said data transfer manager is a computer program.

17. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second processes and said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised by a single computer.

18. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to at least one of error rates, buffer overflows, and under-runs.

19. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to processing overhead.

20. (New) The method of claim 19 wherein said processing overhead results from at least one of encryption and compression.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises at least one of selecting the most secure pathway and the least expensive pathway.

22. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises selecting the least expensive pathway for very large data transfers and the fastest pathway for sensitive data transfers.

23. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein said first and second processors and said first and second data transfer pathways are comprised by a single computer.

24. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to at least one of error rates, buffer overflows, and under-runs.

25. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein said first data transfer metric relates to processing overhead.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein said processing overhead results from at least one of encryption and compression.

27. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises at least one of selecting the most secure pathway and the least expensive pathway.

28. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein said at least one user-specified data transfer rule comprises selecting the least expensive pathway for very large data transfers and the fastest pathway for sensitive data transfers.

29. (New) The computer system of claim 13 wherein said computer system is comprised by a single computer.

30. (New) The computer system of claim 29 wherein said data transfer metrics include processing overhead.

31. (New) The computer system of claim 30 wherein said processing overhead results from at least one of encryption and compression.

32. (New) The computer system of claim 13 wherein said at least one user-selected transfer attribute comprises at least one of selecting the most secure pathway and the least expensive pathway.

33. (New) The computer system of claim 13 wherein said at least one user-selected transfer attribute comprises selecting the least expensive pathway for very large data transfers and the fastest pathway for sensitive data transfers.